

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A layout rule change part 21 selects one of a plurality of layout rules recorded on a layout rule table 22 according to an inputted instruction. A layout part 23 follows thus selected layout rule, and lays out each component element in a hypertext document recorded on a component element recorder 13. The result is recorded on the component element recorder 13. Based on the component elements and the layout result recorded on the component element recorder 13, a display part 17 generates screen data of a display range determined by a display range determination part 16 for display on the screen. The user makes an instruction for screen switching by using a user input part 15, and another instruction for changing the current layout rule to whichever he/she prefers by using a rule change instruction input part 20.